



EPPUpdate

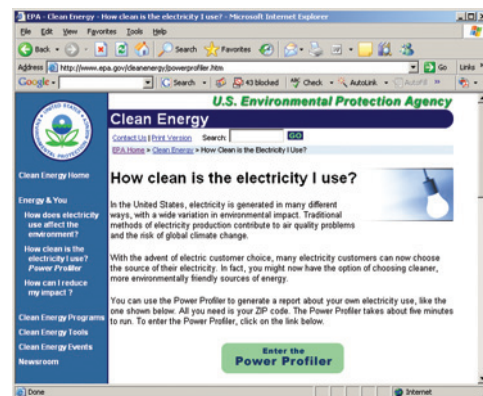
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ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

Measuring the Benefits of Green Purchasing

A new guide is available to help federal employees measure the benefits of environmentally preferable purchasing. *Promoting Green Purchasing: Tools and Resources to Quantify the Benefits of Environmentally Preferable Purchasing* identifies a series of tools and resources that can be used to help develop quantitative estimates of the benefits of green purchasing choices. The guide is available online at www.epa.gov/epp/tools/epp_metrics.pdf.

The tools and resources included in the guide are the ones that EPA found most useful of those available. Most



focus on environmental benefits, but tools that focus on the cost savings of green purchasing, as well as some more general resources, are also included.

The guide is structured around EPA's greening goals that were established in response to various Executive Orders (particularly Executive Orders 13101, 13123, 13149, and 13423). For each goal, the user is presented with a list of available tools and information on each tool, such as the tool's source, inputs, outputs, and possible uses. The tools included were developed by a number of organizations, from EPA and other federal agencies, to various nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations.

If you know of a tool that should be included in future editions of the guide, please share it by filling out the form at www.epa.gov/epp/tools/share/sharetool.htm. For more information please contact Terry Grogan at (202) 564-6317.



Highlights

Measuring the Benefits of Green Purchasing

New EPEAT Standard

USDA's Biobased Products Program

BPA Awarded Under FSSI

OMB Scorecards Put Agencies to the Test

New Executive Order on Sustainability Signed

On January 24, 2007, the President signed Executive Order (EO) 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management." EO 13423 combines five prior EOs into a more comprehensive approach to environmental and energy management. The EO presents federal agencies with nine sustainability goals, such as improved energy efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced water consumption, and implementation of environmentally preferable acquisition of goods and services. For the full text of EO 13423, visit the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive Web site at www.ofee.gov/whats/eo_012407.htm.

Environmentally preferable Purchasing seeks the overall best value, taking into account price competitiveness, regulatory requirements, performance standards, and environmental impact. Because purchasers typically have clear sources of information on procurement and safety regulations and well-established methods for evaluating price and performance, EPA's EPP program has developed the *EPP Update* to help government purchasers consider the environmental factors in the EPP equation and to keep purchasers informed of EPP news. For more information about the EPP program's history, tools, and resources, please visit www.epa.gov/epp.

Round Two for EPEAT: New Standard Development in the Works

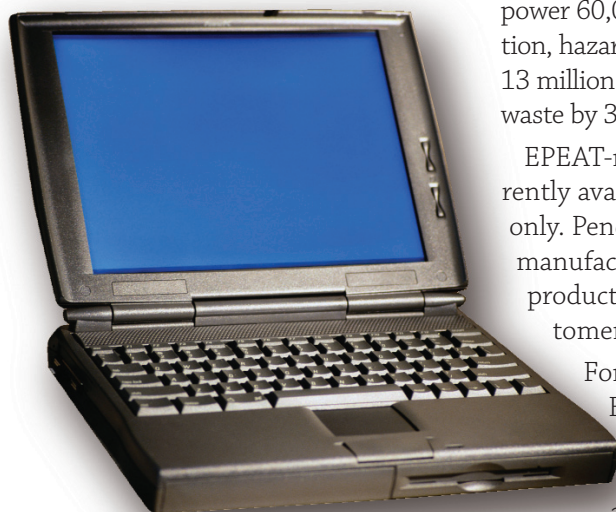
Under the recently launched Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT), EPA's EPP Program is considering funding the development of a standard for another electronic product, to be determined within fiscal year 2007. EPA, Zero Waste Alliance (ZWA), and key stakeholders originally developed EPEAT to help purchasers evaluate desktop computers, laptops, and monitors based on how well these products meet the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers standard for the Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products (1680). Through an existing grant to the International Sustainable Development Foundation, ZWA will convene a diverse group of stakeholders to recommend priority products for the development of new standards. Key stakeholders may include companies, organizations, and institutions that have been involved in developing existing EPEAT standards, as well as purchasers, IT manufacturers and suppliers, local and state government representatives, electronics recyclers, and environmental advocacy groups that can bring expertise and perspective to the table.

Once the key stakeholders have been identified, ZWA will hold meetings to solicit input on the prioritization of potential electronic products for EPEAT consideration, key environmental attributes of the products, and possible approaches for determining these criteria in the future. The recommendations from this group will inform the future efforts of EPA, the Green Electronics Council, and other stakeholders to expand the EPEAT system. The goal is to have a prioritized list of potential electronics products by summer 2007. The Federal Electronics Stewardship Work Group will seek input from the federal community, or input can be provided directly to Larry Chalfan of ZWA at lchalfan@zerowaste.org.

An article in *EPP Update* Issue 17 (September 2006)—“EPEAT Makes Buying Green Easy”—describes EPEAT's rating system, which is based on 51 individual criteria in eight different environmental performance categories. Over the next five years, EPA estimates that the purchase and use of EPEAT-registered computers will save organizations more than \$51 million in energy costs and more than 600,000 megawatt-hours of electricity, which is enough energy to power 60,000 homes for a year. In addition, hazardous waste will be reduced by 13 million pounds and nonhazardous waste by 3 million pounds.

EPEAT-registered electronics are currently available to large purchasers only. Pending consumer demand, manufacturers might make these products available to individual customers in the future.

For more information on EPEAT, please visit www.epeat.net or contact EPA's Holly Elwood at elwood.holly@epa.gov.



Expanding USDA's "Bio"-sphere of Influence

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently proposed an additional 10 items for its Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program, or BioPreferred™, bringing the total number of proposed items to 30. Once USDA finalizes these additions, federal agencies and their contractors must give preference to purchasing these goods made with biobased content, when practical and financially reasonable.

USDA's biobased program is part of its implementation of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of

"Biobased" refers to any commercial or industrial goods (other than food or feed) that are composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products, renewable domestic agricultural materials (including plant, animal, and marine materials), or forestry materials.



2002, better known as the Farm Bill. Guided by this legislation, the hope is that purchasing biobased instead of fossil energy-based products will help reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, create new jobs in rural communities, and provide new markets for farm commodities—not to mention achieve environmental benefits from using renewable resources.

USDA issued an initial set of product designations (Round 1) in March 2006, with a total of six items designated for preferred procurement. This rule was followed by three rounds of proposed rules recommending additional items for the program. Each proposed rule included a public comment period. Final rules designating these additional items are anticipated sometime in 2007.

For more information, visit www.biobased.oce.usda.gov.

Designated Biobased Products

Round 1

Mobile equipment hydraulic fluids
Roof coatings
Water tank coatings
Diesel fuel additives
Penetrating lubricants
Bedding, bed linens, and towels

Proposed Biobased Products

Round 2

Adhesive and mastic removers
Insulating foam for wall construction
Hand cleaners and sanitizers
Composite panels
Fluid-filled transformers
Biodegradable containers
Fertilizers
Metalworking fluids
Sorbents
Graffiti and grease removers

Round 3

2-cycle engine oils
Lip care products
Biodegradable films
Stationary equipment hydraulic fluids
Biodegradable cutlery
Glass cleaners
Dust suppressants
Carpets
Carpet and upholstery cleaners

Round 4

Bath and tile cleaners
Clothing products
Concrete and asphalt release fluids
Cutting, drilling, and tapping oils
De-icers
Durable films
Firearm lubricants
Floor strippers
Laundry products
Wood and concrete sealers



GSA Awards Blanket Purchase Agreement Under New Federal Initiative

Under a new federal initiative focused on government spending and procurement, the General Services Administration (GSA) has awarded the first Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) to the Fed Ex Corporation for federal express and ground domestic delivery service. The award was made in October 2006 under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI), an approach to purchasing goods and services more efficiently by analyzing and adjusting an organization's spending and consolidating its commodity purchases.

The Fed Ex BPA is both economically and environmentally focused. As an EPA SmartWay Transport Partner, Fed Ex is committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, as well as the improved fuel efficiency of ground freight transportation. The BPA also enables participating FSSI agencies to realize significant savings and waived fuel surcharges on domestic shipments. GSA reports that participating agencies can realize from 21.9 to 30.2 percent cost savings on express delivery and 1.7 to 39.2 percent cost savings on ground delivery under the BPA.

As part of the continuing effort to maximize the value of each dollar spent by federal agencies, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued the implementation requirements for the FSSI in May 2005. The FSSI requires each participating agency to develop its own agencywide strategic sourcing plan for the following five commodity product groups: copiers, information technology (IT) hardware, handheld wireless devices, office supplies, and express delivery services.

A total of 23 agencies, including EPA, currently participate in the program. Co-chaired by the Department of the Treasury and GSA, the FSSI requires each participating agency to report progress on strategic sourcing to OMB on an annual basis. Agencies are also to report new initiatives, goals, and progress on balancing its strategic sourcing plan with socio-economic goals for small businesses. Agencies must also establish agencywide performance measures and reporting requirements

to track strategic sourcing progress. By tracking progress, OMB hopes to establish a strategic sourcing community of practice, collaborate with industry, and share best practices.

With such a high focus on widespread progress and savings, the FSSI has the potential to change much of the federal government's buying patterns, including reducing the number of contracts that the government awards to the same companies and increasing acquisition collaboration among agencies. Companies vying for such contracts are encouraged to stress any environmentally preferable products they offer. EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) program, authorized through the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Executive Order 13101, requires that procuring agencies—federal, state, and local agencies and their contractors—buy products containing recovered materials when they spend more than \$10,000 a year on that item. GSA considers it an important step of the pre-contract process to educate contractors and the end-users of the supplied products on both the CPG and EPP guidance, and has invited EPA acquisition representatives to take part in the education process. Similar to the CPG, procurement requirements also exist for energy efficient products under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and for biobased products under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

GSA also encourages agencies to use GSA Advantage, the agency's database of approved products and services, when making environmentally oriented procurements. Available to federal purchasers worldwide, GSA Advantage's environmental aisle highlights the environmental products and services GSA offers, arranged by such criteria as energy efficient, nontoxic, recycled content, and biobased choices. GSA Advantage will soon offer the Advantage Spend Analysis Program (ASAP), through which users may view spending reports for their agencies. User agencies will be able to choose a date range and parameters to focus reports on agency spending, special programs, environmental efforts, and business size/socio-economic figures.

OMB Scorecards Put Agencies To the Test

In 2006, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) created scorecards to evaluate federal agency progress on environmental stewardship, energy management, and transportation management. Similar to the OMB scorecards issued under the President's Management Agenda, these scorecards evaluate agency progress every six months and overall status annually.

While each scorecard focuses on a different topic, all three incorporate sustainability goals into their scoring criteria. The Energy Management Scorecard includes quantitative targets for metering building energy use, using efficient energy design, and improving energy efficiency. The Transportation Management Scorecard includes requirements for the acquisition of alternatively fueled vehicles, based on requirements in the Energy Policy Act of 1992. Specific requirements for alternative fuel use are also reflected by the scorecard.

The Environmental Stewardship Scorecard comprises five scoring criteria. The first measure is based on environmental management systems (EMS) requirements from Executive Order 13148 for the particular agency and all appropriate facilities. The second reflects statutory and Executive Order requirements for a comprehensive green purchasing program. The third measure assesses an agency's plans for implementing a sustainable building program, and the fourth evaluates the agency's ability to

implement a sustainability program for electronic stewardship. Finally, the fifth measure assesses the development of a compliance management plan and implementation strategy.

An agency achieves a "green" rating on Current Status if it meets all the standards for success for each of the five elements; otherwise it receives a "yellow" or a "red" rating. While individual agency scorecards and results will not be made available to the public, the templates and a summary of government-wide results are posted on the fedcenter.gov Web site at <www.fedcenter.gov/Documents/index.cfm?id=5392&page_id=1606>.

EPA is confident that the scorecards will assist agencies in achieving results and making progress toward sustainability goals.



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